

**City of Bloomington
Telecommunication Council
Business Meeting – November 3rd, 2009**

Common Council Chambers
City Hall at the Showers Building
401 N. Morton St.

I. Members Present: Carl Zager, Suzann Owen, Jesse Strycker, Duane Busick, Eric Ost

Others in Attendance: Justin Goodwin – ITS, Michael White – CATS, Special Guest: Lennon Beasley

II. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Suzann to accept the October meeting minutes, Jesse seconded the motion. Suzann mentioned that the minutes are coming in pdf format, she would appreciate them staying in word so corrections can be made to them. Motion was passed 3-0.

III. Public Comment: None

IV. Reports

1. Telecom Members:

Jesse – General Note

I was in Louisville, Kentucky at a conference that partners with the International Children's Media Festival. I was able to see the students from Batchelor Middle School. They stood out in the crowd with the neon shirts that said BTV on them. It was good to see local people away from home.

Carl – History of BTV

Fifteen or sixteen years ago, the city and the telecommunications council created a grant using franchise fees. Different groups applied to the council for grant money. The money was provided and Jeff Rudkin from Batchelor has done a lot with it. These kids have not only been recognized locally but nationally and in Eastern Europe.

Duane – Jeff spreads the success thru the entire school system.

Carl - He also received a grant from Best Buy to use however he wanted. He used that money toward technology and equipment to all the schools. He is a great facilitator.

Duane – I attended the 75th Birthday and Retirement Celebration of Charlotte Zitlow.

Suzann – Industry Report

The FCC focus is all being placed on broadband and all the buzz is on network neutrality. Nothing is changing but there is a lot of buzz. In industry news, there is nothing about cable or video service providers in general.

Eric – No Report

Carl – Friday November 6th at Bloomington Hospital in the auditorium, a presentation will be given by Dave Tucek. Dave is a trained meteorologist for the National Weather Service out of Indianapolis. The program will be on severe weather, how to look at the sky, with a focus on winter storms. The program is sponsored by the Amateur Radio Club.

There may be light at the end of the tunnel when dealing with Emergency Override Notification. There is a program that would allow us to locally send an alert, other than weather, to the National Weather Service, and they will be able to interrupt local broadcast. It will allow us to very quickly get the information passed.

Duane – They already have their network setup regionally. It would just be an add-on for them.

Carl – Central dispatch has been looking at the process. I hope to have a report for you within the next month or so. This looks like it might be a solution, which goes beyond the relationship with a particular video service provider.

Duane – It would affect all broadcast station.

Carl – This application would allow Jeff to throw a switch that notifies the NWS that Bloomington has a local alert. Then NWS throws a switch and the local alert gets translated over the local cable system, as well as radio.

Duane – We still have to deal with the video service providers that have channels that don't broadcast alerts.

Suzann – Are we confident that the local providers can break it down to the local area being affected?

Carl – All I can do is back-up and give a description of how the existing system works. If there is an emergency alert system notice, which is mandated by the FCC to be carried by cable, video, and broadcast media. That alert comes down to the media outlets, including the cable company's thru the NWS. When the NWS puts up an alert that is considered to be an EAS alert, all media outlets are required to carry that under the FCC. We know Comcast carries it. During franchise negotiations several years ago, the company now called Comcast agreed to work with local dispatch centers to local government, and give the local dispatch center the right to override in this area for local alerts. It was my understanding during the digitalization there arose problems. The technologies were conflicting with each other, and if the local viewer is watching a local non-broadcast station, they would have to change over to a broadcast station to see the alert. What this council has never been clear on is whether the national EAS alerts appear to be on the second video service provider. So if the question is will system change that? I don't know for sure. If the second video service provider is currently accepting and re-broadcasting EAS alerts then they will be able to accept the local alerts.

Duane – It sounds like good news, and it may simplify the process.

2. CATS – Michael White

- Listed monthly programming

Duane – Teen Reads Week Video Book Reviews. Do you know who was involved in sponsoring that?

Michael – Chis Hoffsler, coordinated it.

Special Guest: Lennon Beasley

- By the end of October, he produced 554 shows.
- He has produced a new show: Drums Live!
- All are invited to Lennon's Pizza Party on December 11th at 1:30pm.
- He will attempt to produce 600 programs by the end of the year.

Duane – Do you play any other instruments other than drum?

Lennon – Piano, keyboard

3. WTIU – No Report

4. ITS Dept. – Rick Dietz – No Report

Carl – Rick did send an email to catch everyone up on the PEG channel and Emergency Override Issues.

5. Comcast and AT&T – No Report

Jesse – Has anyone been experiencing their high speed running slower?

Duane – Yes

Carl – What I heard was there were some real connectivity issues with Comcast services this month, as well as speed issues. One person told me that one day it would be fast, the next day real slow, and then another person told me it would be slow and fast within the same 15 to 20 minutes.

Jesse – When I'm in an AT&T store, I tend to ask about their DSL expansion, this individual told me (which may have been their own opinion), that he didn't think they would be expanding, instead it would be full packages offered. You are in for everything, and low-income or student it would be hard to afford.

Carl – One of the people I talked to about the Comcast problem called AT&T. According to the AT&T website, his neighborhood was not served, but according to AT&T he was served.

Jesse – I get a lot of mailing from them, but my neighborhood is still not served.

Suzann - You need to compare a recent bill with one from a year ago, you will see that the terminology has changed. It's Comcast terminology. I wish there was a place to go on to have it broken down into what everything means.

V. Old Business

1. Reports to City Council

2. Comcast, EAS, Local Emergency Overrides

3. PEG Channels

4. Telecom Charter

Suzann – I talked with Iris Kiesling about the County Telecom Council. We were under the impression that they were going to re-constitute the county council, but she said nothing has been done regarding that. If we have anything we are to just let the County Commissioners know.

VI. New Business

1. Telecommunication Council Elections

Carl – In January, we ought to consider having an election.

Question: How many terms are we allowed?

Suzann – According to the website, Duane was re-appointed last year; all other terms expire at the end of January 2010.

2. Telecommunications Content on the City Website

Suzann – We need to re-focus on some of the content for the website for the telecom council.

VII. Adjournment

Next Regular Meeting

Tuesday, December 1st, 2009 at 7:30
Common Council Chambers in City Hall at the Showers Building
401 N. Morton St.

Submitted By:
Stephanie Jachim 11-18-09